

SITUATION REPORT NO. 14
INCIDENT NO. 2002-040
DATE: July 9, 2002 TIME: 3:45 p.m.

TO: Governor John Hoeven
State Capitol
Bismarck, N.D. 58505

1. NATURE OF DISASTER: Drought/Fires – The Governor issued a state fire emergency declaration on May 30, 2002, and a state drought emergency declaration on July 1, 2002.
2. DEATHS AND INJURIES: On July 7, one Kraft Complex firefighter was transported to a medical facility but injuries were not serious.

The State Emergency Operations Center (EOC) has received reports of two fatalities, one of which occurred on May 2 and the other on May 26. To date, a total of 11 injuries have occurred during response to various fires throughout the state.

3. DAMAGES: On July 9, between one-tenth to eight-tenths of one inch of rain fell across the attack areas of fires within the Kraft Fire Complex in Grant and Sioux Counties. Firefighting personnel are rehabilitating grader lines and completing mop-up operations on hot spots located in the Kraft, Udell, and 32 Alpha Bravo (AB) Fires. Mop-up operations for the TenBrooke Fire may be completed by June 10. The Kraft Complex is considered 90 percent contained. The Type II Incident Management Team used to combat the Kraft Fire Complex is in the demobilization stage. The transition to a Type III Incident Commander will be on July 11. Staged on site will be 10 engines with personnel and one Type II helicopter.

The Adams County Emergency Manager reported a July 5 grass fire burned 10 acres located six miles east of the junction of County Roads 8 and 12. The fire, which was started by the exhaust system of farm equipment, required response from the Lemmon and Hettinger Fire Departments. Mowing equipment apparently started a two-acre fire on July 5 that was extinguished by the Hettinger Fire Department. On July 8 in Adams County, a fire was reported northeast of Hettinger. A second blaze burned eight miles northwest of Hettinger on Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) land. A third fire located two miles west and five miles north of Hettinger also burned CRP acres. By mid-afternoon, all three were under control. The Hettinger Fire Department requested assistance from the Mott, Lemmon, and Reeder Fire Departments.

Late in the afternoon of July 8, five fires were reported southwest of Mandan near Breien in Morton County. The Mandan Rural Fire Department, the Flasher Fire Department, and a Highway Patrol unit were dispatched to the area. Crews from the 32 AB Fire also responded by using 13 engines and one grader. In addition,

medium and heavy helicopters provided water drops. Five engines and one tender provided by the 32 AB Fire crew remained on duty through the night. Approximately 40 acres were burned.

The fires burned a combined total of 40 acres.

State Radio Communications indicated two fires that started near New England in Hettinger County were extinguished by rain early in the morning on July 9.

From July 1-7, Williams County Emergency Management officials reported that local fire departments responded to eight fireworks related grass fires. Only minor damage was reported.

On July 2 in McIntosh County, a fire one mile east and 2.5 miles south of Wishek burned approximately 2 acres of CRP. A lightning strike caused a fire located 10 miles east and 3 miles south of Ashley that burned dead trees on the side of a roadway.

The North Dakota Agricultural Statistics Service reported that from July 1 through July 7 temperatures once again topped 100 degrees with very little precipitation in the southwest and south central regions. Many small grain crops in these areas may be cut for hay or not harvested at all. Pasture and hay conditions continue to be rated very poor. Statewide, fifty-five percent of pastures and 60 percent the hay crop was rated in the poor to very poor category. However, ranchers in many southwest and south central counties have been forced to haul water to save livestock.

The percent of soil moisture in four categories is as follows:

	<u>Very Short</u>	<u>Short</u>	<u>Adequate</u>	<u>Surplus</u>
TOPSOIL				
This Week	21	24	50	5
Last Week	20	25	49	6
SUBSOIL				
This Week	20	24	51	5
Last Week	16	24	53	7

The statewide spring wheat conditions were rated eight percent very poor, 12 percent poor, 33 percent fair, 41 percent good, and six percent excellent. Forty-eight percent of spring wheat and 44 percent of barley was headed or beyond; the five-year average is 54 and 49 percent respectively. Soybean crop conditions were little changed from last week; two percent was rated very poor, 11 percent poor, 37 percent fair, 42 percent good, and 8 percent excellent.

4. RESOURCES:

LOCAL: No change from previous reports.

STATE: No change from previous reports.

FEDERAL: No change from previous reports.

5. VOLUNTEER ACTIONS: No change from previous reports.

6. MAJOR ACTIONS: On July 3, Governor John Hoeven requested that Secretary of Agriculture, Ann Veneman, authorize haying of CRP acres in the entire state.

The Governor on July 5, issued a formal Damage Assessment Request to the United States Department Agriculture (USDA) Farm Service Agency for the counties of Adams, Barnes, Bowman, Burleigh, Dickey, Emmons, Grant, Hettinger, Kidder, LaMoure, Logan, McIntosh, Morton, Oliver, Pierce, Ransom, Sargent, Sioux, Slope, and Stutsman.

On July 8, the Governor's Chief of Staff and representatives from the N.D. National Guard, the N.D. Division of Emergency Management, the N.D. Forest Service, the Standing Rock Sioux Indian Tribal Council, and Sioux County participated in a helicopter tour of the area affected by fires. They also met with representatives of the Standing Rock Sioux Indian Reservation, Sioux County, the Bureau of Indian Affairs and the U.S. Forest Service.

On July 8, hand line crews, in concert with suppression engines, were used to cool hot spots in the Kraft Complex, south of Shields on the northern end of the Tenbrooke fire. In this effort, nine North Dakota National Guard personnel were used to operate transport vehicles and heavy equipment.

An informational meeting for Sioux and Grant County residents was held by federal officials representing the Type II Management Team on July 8 at 2:00 p.m. in the Standing Rock School at Fort Yates.

On July 7, representatives from federal and state agencies discussed a draft proposal of a Fire Protection Assistance Plan in support of local and tribal responders. Each agency provided information related to potential technical and equipment assistance. Agencies participating in the meeting included the Governor's Office, the N.D. Forest Service, State Radio Communications, the N.D. National Guard, the N.D. Game and Fish Department, the N.D. Parks and Recreation Department, the N.D. Department of Transportation, the N.D. Aeronautics Commission, the N.D. Division of Emergency Management and the U.S. Forest Service - Dakota Prairie Grasslands.

On July 2, the Barnes County Commission issued an emergency drought declaration.

7. ASSISTANCE NEEDED: No change from previous reports.
8. OUTSIDE HELP ON SCENE: No change from previous reports.
9. OTHER: Due to critical fuel conditions, 22 southern North Dakota counties will remain in the extreme category of the Fire Danger Index until further notice. They include: Golden Valley, Billings, Slope, Bowman, Stark, Hettinger, Adams, Oliver, Morton, Burleigh, Grant, Sioux, Emmons, Kidder, Stutsman, Logan, LaMoure, McIntosh, Dickey, Ransom, Sargent and Richland.

Appropriate state, local, tribal, federal and private entity emergency operations plans (EOPs) and procedures have been implemented.

The N.D. Rural Fire Mitigation Guide and the N.D. Rangeland Fire Danger Index are posted on the N.D. Division of Emergency Management web site at:

<http://www.state.nd.us/dem/>.

Situation Reports published by N.D. Division of Emergency Management are posted on the Division's Internet home page. The address is:

<http://www.state.nd.us/dem/>.

Douglas C. Friez, State Director